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FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION

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Rec. Mgmt.	
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Training	
Telephone Rm.	
Director's Sec'y	

b3 per DIA

EL SALVADOR

BT

~~SECRET~~

SERIAL: DIADIN 348-14A

SUBJ: EL SALVADOR: POSSIBLE GUERRILLA ATTACKS. (U)

DOI: 13 DEC 84 (AS OF 1932 EST)

TEXT: 1. ☒ ☐ THE INSURGENTS MAY CONDUCT MAJOR ATTACKS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE HOLIDAYS, BASED ON RECENT REPORTS AND GUERRILLA ACTIONS BEFORE AND AFTER THE FIRST AND SECOND ROUNDS OF THE PEACE TALKS.

2. ☒ ☐ ON 9 NOVEMBER, 3 WEEKS AFTER THE FIRST ROUND OF PEACE TALKS ON 15 OCTOBER, A LARGE GUERRILLA FORCE ATTACKED SUCHITOTO IN AN ATTEMPT TO TAKE OVER THE TOWN. THE TOWN WAS CLEARLY A VULNERABLE MILITARY TARGET BECAUSE IT WAS DEFENDED BY ONLY 200

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NATIONAL POLICE AND CIVIL DEFENSE PERSONNEL AT THE TIME. ON 1 DECEMBER, ONE DAY AFTER THE SECOND ROUND OF TALKS, THE INSURGENTS TRAPPED A GOVERNMENT BATTALION NEAR EL SALTO, INFLECTING SEVERE CASUALTIES AND TAKING NUMEROUS PRISONERS.

3. ~~SECRET~~ [] AN INSURGENT CAPTURED BEFORE THE GUERRILLAS' ANNOUNCEMENT OF A CEASE-FIRE ON 11 DECEMBER INDICATED THE FORCES OF THE ~~PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY ARMY~~ (ERP) WOULD MOUNT AN ATTACK AGAINST A LARGE CITY DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON. THE INSURGENT NOTED THAT AFTER A SERIES OF ATTACKS IN SOUTHERN AND WESTERN USULUTAN, THE GUERRILLAS WOULD STRIKE THE DEPARTMENTAL CAPITAL OF USULUTAN CITY. DURING A RECENT GUERRILLA MOVEMENT IN WESTERN SAN MIGUEL, ERP GUERRILLAS WARNED AREA RESIDENTS THE INSURGENTS WOULD SOON ATTACK THE 3D BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AT SAN MIGUEL.

b3 per DIA

4. ~~SECRET~~ [] THE RECENT ATTACKS IN SUCHITOTO AND EL SALTO INDICATE THE INSURGENTS INTEND TO DISPLAY THEIR MILITARY CAPABILITIES THROUGHOUT THE "PEACE TALKS" PROCESS IN AN EFFORT TO STRENGTHEN THEIR BARGAINING POSITION. ALTHOUGH NUMEROUS REPORTS HAVE COMMENTED ON POSSIBLE ATTACKS AGAINST USULUTAN CITY AND SAN MIGUEL CITY IN THE PAST YEAR, THE INSURGENTS DID ATTACK SAN MIGUEL IN SEPTEMBER 1983. THEY ALSO CAPTURED THE 4TH BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS

AT EL PARAISO ON 30 DECEMBER 1983 AND DESTROYED THE CUSCATLAN BRIDGE THE FOLLOWING DAY. THE INSURGENTS WILL PROBABLY ABIDE BY THEIR UNILATERAL CEASE-FIRE DURING THE HOLIDAYS, BUT THE LIKELIHOOD OF A MAJOR ATTACK BEFORE THE NEXT ROUND OF TALKS REMAINS HIGH.

b3 per DIA

DECL: OADR

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